

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 15969 151254Z

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FROM AMBASSADOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE--OVERVIEW

1. FIRST WEEK OF WFC DOMINATED BY SPEECHES IN PLENARY. NONE EQUALLED THOSE OF US IN DEPTH, BREADTH AND CONCRETENESS IN ADDRESSING LONGER-TERM FOOD PROBLEMS FACING WORLD. GOOD MANY LARGELY HELD TOGETHER BY REPETITIONS DEMOGOGIC DENUNCIATION OF IMPERIAL POWERS AND ESPECIALLY THE US, OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND OF COLONIALISM. THAT OF PRESIDENT OF MEXICO PROBABLY LED THE CLASS IN THIS RESPECT.

2. AS WORK OF COMMITTEES GOT UNDER WAY AND NEED TO DEAL WITH INTRACTABLE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS CAME TO FORE THIS STRESS ON CONFRONTATION WAS DIMINISHED, BEING KEPT ALIVE BY A FEW COUNTRIES LIKE ALGERIA, CUBA, MEXICO, YUGOSLAVIA, ARGENTINA AND PERU IN DRAFTING GROUPS DEVOTED TO RHETORICAL SUBJECTS LIKE DECLARATION ON HUNGER AND THE TRADE AND PRICE STABILIZATION RESOLUTIONS RATHER THAN THOSE ON WHICH WFC CAN AFFECT WHAT HAPPENS. FORTUNATELY WHETHER THESE ARE AGREED OR NOT DOESN'T MATTER EITHER TO US OR HUNGRY PEOPLE. EVEN HERE, AS RESULT OF APPROACHING END OF CONFERENCE, HARDLINERS HAVE RETREATED UNDER HARD NEGOTIATING OF GROUP BE DELEGATES LED BY US, FORCING REPEATED SESSIONS INTO EARLY MORNING.

3. AS OF MIDNIGHT NOV 14, ALL EIGHT SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS
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PAGE 02 ROME 15969 151254Z

(EXCLUDING IX AND X ON TRADE) PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT HAVE BEEN

AGREED AT LEAST IN A CONTACT GROUP AND HALF OF THEM BY APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE AS WELL. SECRETARIAT VERSIONS HAVE BEEN LENGTHENED BY SOME RHETORIC AND SOME PET PROJECTS THAT DON'T BELONG; THERE IS LESS STYLE, BUT NOT ONLY IS THERE NOTHING OBJECTIONABLE TO US, BUT STRENGTHENING CALLED FOR BY US POSITION PAPERS AND SECRETARY KISSINGER SPEECH ARE INCLUDED. IN ADDITION WE HAVE RESOLUTIONS ON POPULATION AND ROLE OF WOMEN WHICH ARE USEFUL AND TO WHICH US MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. RESOLUTIONS IX AND X ON TRADE HAVE JUST BEEN AGREED IN DRAFTING GROUP AFTER LONG AND SOMETIMES BITTER BATTLE ON BASIS US DRAFTED COMPROMISE TEXT. IT MAY CAUSE MUCH ORATORY IN NEXT TWO DAYS BUT ITS PASSAGE AT WFC DOESN'T MATTER TO US AS MUCH AS AVOIDANCE CONFRONTATION WHICH MIGHT HAVE SPREAD TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF MORE IMPORTANCE TO WFC SUCCESS.

5. DECLARATION REPRESENTS SIMILAR SITUATION THOUGH THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL DISAGREED PARAGRAPHS IN THIS CASE.

6. OPEC PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FUND MAY OR MAY NOT BE PHONEY BUT AT LAST THEY HAVE MADE GESTURE AFTER SIX MONTHS OF PRESSURE AND IT WILL BE HARD FOR THEM TO DISAPPOINT HOPE THEIR SPONSORSHIP HAS AROUSED. TEXT IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION BUT QUALIFYING AMENDMENTS TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE PROTECTION AGAINST CREATING UNJUSTIFIED NEW FUND. US IS ON BIT OF SPOT SINCE IT ALMOST CERTAIN WE CAN'T CONTRIBUTE AND EVEN IF SPONSORS DON'T DEMAND MATCHING, OUR FAILURE TO DO SO WILL AROUSE WIDESPREAD CRITICISMS FROM PEOPLE WHO WILL BE DIFFICULT TO REACH WITH THE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED BUT VALID REASONS FOR NOT DOING SO. MOST CRITICS WILL PROBABLY NOT TRY VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND US POSITION.

7. THERE IS NOT MUCH TO SAY ON CRUCIAL ISSUE OF FOLLOW-UP INSTITUTIONS AS CONFERENCE HAS LOGICALLY PUT THEM AT END WHEN SUBSTANCE TO BE FOLLOWED UP IS MORE OR LESS KNOWN. THEY WILL OCCUPY LARGE PART OF NEGOTIATING TIME IN NEXT TWO DAYS. GROUP B IS PRETTY CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON OVERALL INTEGRATING MACHINERY CALLED FOR IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH. WHILE PROPOSAL FAR FROM PERFECT, IT HAS CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE BY SOCIALISTS AND BADLY SPLIT 77. US
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PAGE 03 ROME 15969 151254Z

ENDORSEMENT IS BEING RECOMMENDED BY ME AND SECRETARY BUTZ IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.

8. MORE SPECIFIC ITEMS LIKE CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND ITS FOOD AID SUBCOMMITTEE HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY ADDRESSED, BUT NO OPPOSITION UNCOVERED SO FAR. OUR ABILITY TO TAKE INITIATIVE ON FORWARD PLANNING OF FOOD AID AND SETTING 10 MILLION TON ANNUAL TARGET, ENABLED US TO NEGOTIATE OUT OF

COMMITTING MORE TO MULTILATERAL CHANNELS. CALL FOR MEETING OF CURRENT AND POTENTIAL DONORS AND INTERESTED IMPORTERS TO TACKLE MID-TERM FOOD TRANSFER PROBLEM FITS IN WITH CONCEPT IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH.

9. EXPECT ACCEPTANCE WITHOUT MUCH FURTHER DIFFICULTY OF UMBRELLA LANGUAGE FOR RESERVES COORDINATING GROUP TO BE WORKED OUT WITH MAJOR IMPORTERS AND OTHER EXPORTERS. AFTER INITIAL TACTICAL SKIRMISHING, COMPLEMENTARY RESOLUTION ON FOOD INFORMATION GAINED WIDE ACCEPTANCE, AND SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE.

10. AFTER MODEST AMOUNT OF DEBATE, THERE WAS NO PROBLEM IN REJECTING CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATIONS UNWANTED BY US.

11. PROCESS IS HIGHLY DISORDERLY ONE AND MANY INSIDE SOME DELEGATIONS AND CONFERENCE ONLOOKERS ALIKE HAVE TRIED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM LONGER-TERM PROPER POLICY-MAKING FUNCTION TO ACTION ON IMMEDIATE FOOD SHORTAGES. EVERYTHING CONSIDERED, RESULTS LOOK NOW LIKE BEING BETTER THAN MOST OF US HOPED FOR, BUT THERE ARE TWO DAYS YET TO GO.

12. SECRETARY BUTZ CONCURS.VOLPE

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